

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Colonel Donald E. Jackson  
Commander  
South Atlantic Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Colonel Jackson:

Please find enclosed revised ocean disposal monitoring requirements for all Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites within EPA Region 4. During an interagency meeting held August 22-24, 2012 between EPA Region 4 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) South Atlantic Division (SAD), consensus was reached that all Site Management and Monitoring Plans (SMMPs) in the Southeast should have the same disposal monitoring requirements. Following consultation with all five SAD Districts and the USACE Dredging Quality Management Program, draft disposal monitoring requirements were developed. Pursuant to Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), revisions to SMMPs require public review. Between October 30, 2012 and February 4, 2013 the Districts of the South Atlantic Division published a Public Notice and Notice of Availability for the proposed modifications to all the Southeast ODMDs SMMPs. Comments were received from the States of Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. The comments were considered in developing the final revised requirements.

Effective with this letter, all SMMPs within EPA Region 4 are revised to incorporate the enclosed disposal monitoring requirements. These revised requirements should be included as permit conditions for all MPRSA Section 103 permits and should be incorporated in the contract language for all federal projects for ocean disposal in the ODMDs. Reporting frequency will continue to be specified within each individual SMMP. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Chris McArthur at (404) 562-9391.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Stanley Meiburg", is positioned above the printed name.

A. Stanley Meiburg  
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

## REVISED DISPOSAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

These revised requirements apply to all Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites within EPA Region 4.

Disposal Monitoring. For all disposal activities, an electronic tracking system (ETS) must be utilized. The ETS will provide surveillance of the transportation and disposal of dredged material. The ETS will be maintained and operated to continuously track the horizontal location and draft condition (accuracy $\pm$  0.1 foot) of the disposal vessel (i.e. hopper dredge or disposal scow) from the point of dredging to the disposal site and return to the point of dredging. Data shall be collected at least every 0.25 nautical mile or every 4 minutes during travel to and from the ODMDS and twelve seconds or every 30 feet of travel, while the hull status is open within the ODMDS. In addition to the continuous tracking data, the following trip information shall be electronically recorded for each disposal cycle:

- a. Load Number
- b. Disposal Vessel Name and Type (e.g. scow)
- c. Estimated volume of Load
- d. Description of Material Disposed
- e. Source of Dredged Material
- f. Date, Time and Location at Initiation and Completion of Disposal Event

It is expected that disposal monitoring will be conducted utilizing the Dredge Quality Management (DQM) system for Civil Works projects [see <http://dqm.usace.army.mil/Specifications/Index.aspx>], although other systems are acceptable. Disposal monitoring and ETS data will be reported to EPA Region 4 utilizing the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) specification and protocol.